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The School of Industrial Art of the Pennsylvania Museum

Notes

The excellent address on "Marketing Textile Fabrics," which was delivered at the last annual meeting of the Alumni Association of the Textile School, by Robert T. Francis, one of the graduates, has been reprinted in the New York *Men's Wear*, of Nov. 19, 1902. The address is an admirable illustration of the kind of adjustment to actual business conditions which is so readily made by the pupils of the School, and helps explain the eager demand for graduates which exists in the commercial world.

Among the situations recently obtained by former students, the following may be mentioned as showing the practical spirit which dominates this department:

Independent manufacturers.....	22
Mill agents.....	3
Commission house positions.....	12
Superintendents woolen or worsted mills.....	14
Superintendents cotton mills.....	15
Superintendents narrow goods and fancy fabric mills.....	18
Superintendent silk mill.....	1
Designers woolen and worsted goods.....	23
Designers cotton goods.....	12
Designers narrow goods and fancy fabrics.....	10
Designers silk goods.....	6

There are now on file at the School applications for:

Designers for cotton goods.....	3
Designers for narrow fabrics.....	3
Superintendents of woolen mills.....	3
Commission house positions.....	2

It is believed that no better showing of this kind can be made by any professional school in Europe or America.

A School of Pottery Needed

Among the contemplated extensions of the work of the School connected with this Museum, the establishment of a School of Pottery is, perhaps, the most earnestly discussed, and the subject is one eminently deserving of encouragement and effort. A good deal of work in this direction has already been done in the classes as at present organized, but the means for developing it have not been forthcoming. No branch of industrial art is quite so fascinating as ceramics, and there would certainly seem to be no good reason why such a department, if properly equipped, should not perform a great and much-needed service and achieve at once a success comparable to that which so promptly attended the opening of our Textile School which has exerted so powerful and beneficent an influence in the textile industry throughout the land.

Pennsylvania is peculiarly rich in the traditions of this interesting craft. Not to mention other forms of early local production which were of almost equal interest to the student, probably nothing in American industrial art is quite so fascinating as the quaint effects in "slip" decoration produced by the Pennsylvania Germans in Colonial days, a splendid collection of which constitutes one of the most valued possessions of the Museum.

All that is needed to revive this extinct art and to develop a distinctive style of great dignity and beauty, is that it should be brought under just such influences as dominate the School of Industrial Art; and it is much to be hoped that the means may soon be found for establishing such a department at Broad and Pine Streets.

A Handsome Cabinet

One of the most valuable and interesting additions made to the Department of Furniture and Woodwork during the year is an Italian cabinet, presented in the name of Elizabeth W. Lewis, through Miss Sarah Lewis and Miss Mary Lewis. It is a beautiful example of sixteenth century work, in black Italian walnut, entirely covered with carved panels and figures in full relief. Heads of cherubs form the knobs for the lower doors, while the handles for the two central drawers are



carved in the shapes of heads of men. Groups of armed knights and fauns stand out boldly on either side, while two half-length dogs serve for the front feet. Down the sides and the angles at the back is a profusion of other details in bas-relief. The accompanying illustration will convey but a faint idea of the beauty of the original and its fine color, which age alone can produce.

The Museum now possesses one of the best and most valuable collections of old furniture in this country.